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Message Text

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EUR/;E:RMDOTSON
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R 141734Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174152

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, CU, NL, AO, CF

SUBJECT: CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA AND THE CONGO

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 3735; (B) STATE 159704

EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN DISCUSSING CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND THE CONGO WITH DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTRY:

1. (A) CUBAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RAUL CASTRO VISITED BRAZZAVILLE JUNE 3-5. WE DO NOT KNOW THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT NGOUABI, BUT WE ASSUME THAT CUBAN PLANS FOR A CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND THE CONGO WERE DISCUSSED. THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT HAS AN AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR CONTINUED CUBAN
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TRAINING OF CONGOLESE DOCTORS, NURSES, TEACHERS, AND

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AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS PLUS OFFERING FUTURE MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PORTION OF THAT AGREEMENT APPARENTLY HAS NEVER BEEN IMPLEMENTED, HOWEVER. WE DO NOT KNOW IF ANY NEW ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE DURING RAUL CASTRO'S RECENT VISIT.

2. (B) THE CONGOLESE PORT OF POINTE NOIRE AND THE BRAZZAVILLE AIRPORT WERE USED AS TRANSSHIPMENT AND

STOPOVER POINTS FOR CUBAN MEN AND MATERIEL ENROUTE TO ANGOLA. CUBANS ARRIVING FROM OR RETURNING TO CUBA ARE PROBABLY STILL TRANSITING THE CONGO. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT RECENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CUBAN TROOPS GARRISONED IN THE CONGO.

3. (C) THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT SOME CUBAN TROOPS HAVE RETURNED TO CUBA FROM AFRICA WITHIN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. IT IS UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THESE RETURNEES REPRESENT AN ACTUAL REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ANGOLA OR MERELY ROTATION OF FORCES. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF CUBAN TECHNICAL ADVISORS (WHOSE CIVILIAN OR MILITARY STATUS IS UNCERTAIN) HAVE APPARENTLY ARRIVED DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CUBANS IN ANGOLA.
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